



A GUIDE TO HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING FOR UVIC RESEARCHERS

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1. OVERVIEW

[Horizon Europe](#) (2021 – 2027) is the world’s largest research and innovation program with a total budget of Euro 95.5 billion (CAD 140 billion). It aims to tackle global challenges, help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and facilitate global collaboration in all research areas. Thirty-five percent of the budget is dedicated to clean tech and climate action.

The program consists of the following three pillars:

Pillar I – Excellent Science

Pillar II – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Pillar III – Innovative Europe

While Horizon Europe has always been open to international participation, “third country” participants, including Canada, have not been eligible to receive funding for most calls.

With Canada’s association to [Pillar II \(Global Challenges\)](#), **researchers based in Canada are now eligible to apply to and receive funding for Pillar II calls** as “associate country” participants on similar terms with EU member states.

More information:

[ISED Canada Horizon Europe website](#)

[Horizon Europe and Canada Webinar](#)

- hosted by the Mission to Canada of the EU on January 25, 2024

[EURAXESS North America Horizon Europe Resources for Canadians](#)

[Horizon Europe Guide - Canada](#)

2. PILLAR II

[Horizon Europe Pillar II](#), with a total budget of Euro 53 billion, encourages cross-disciplinary, cross-sector and cross-border collaboration in the following six cluster areas:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry & Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

In addition, the Horizon Europe program has five overarching [missions](#) to support the European Commission's priorities and help address key challenges. The missions are climate change; cancer; healthy oceans and waters; climate-neutral and smart cities; soil health and food.

IMPORTANT: Unless otherwise specified, all Pillar II calls require a consortium of at least three partner organizations, including at least one partner from an EU country and two partners from different EU or [associated countries](#).

The average Horizon Europe consortium size is 12 partners and the average grant size is Euro 4 million (CAD 5.8 million) over 3 years.

3. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Step 1: Find a call

Search the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#) to find a suitable call for proposals. Use the advanced search function on the left-hand side (Programming Period: 2021-2027; Programme: Horizon Europe; Programme Part: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness) to select one or more Pillar II clusters and/or other parameters.

You can also search by keyword to further refine the results.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page on the 'Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. The search results show 293 items found. The filters on the left are: Type (Grants: 293, Tenders: 77), Submission status (Forthcoming: 77, Open for submission: 219), Programming period (2021 - 2027: 293), and Programme / Programme group (Horizon Europe (HORIZON)). The search results list several calls for proposals, including 'Rare Earth and magnets innovation hubs (IA)', 'Technologies for processing and refining of critical raw materials (IA)', 'Addressing due diligence requirements in raw materials supply chains. (CSA)', and 'Technologies for extraction and processing of critical raw materials (IA)'.

The screenshot shows the search filters on the 'Search funding & tenders' page. The filters are: Type (Grants: 304, Tenders: 66), Submission status (Forthcoming: 66, Open for submission: 238, Closed: 0), Programming period (2021 - 2027: 304), Programme / Programme group (Horizon Europe (HORIZON)), and Programme part (Global Challenges and European In...).

The main calls you will see are either Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) or Innovation Actions (IA), with different technology readiness levels. RIAs are funded at 100% of eligible project costs, while IAs will be funded at 70% of the total project costs.

TIP: Review the relevant [Horizon Europe work programme](#) to find upcoming calls in your area of expertise. This will allow you sufficient time to prepare and build your consortium.

Work programmes are biannual publications of funding calls to implement the Horizon Europe strategic framework over the next two years. There is a separate work programme for each Pillar II cluster and for the five overarching missions.

Step 2: Find a partner

Unless otherwise specified, all Pillar II calls require a consortium of at least three partner organizations in different EU and associated countries.

If you do not already have your partners identified, partner search announcements for specific calls are available by selecting the call topic and using the internal navigation menu on the left hand side to navigate the call details.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page on the SEDIA platform. The search results list two items. The first item is 'Innovation Action in Low Latency and High Bandwidth Interconnects' (HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2023-INTER-02-01), which is a 'Call for proposal' and is 'Open for submission'. A red arrow points to this call title. The second item is 'Breakthroughs to improve process industry resource efficiency (Processe...' (HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-41), also a 'Call for proposal' and 'Open for submission'.

The screenshot shows the details page for the call 'Innovation Action in Low Latency and High Bandwidth Interconnects' (HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2023-INTER-02-01). The page is titled 'Call for proposal'. The 'Internal navigation' menu on the left has 'Partner search announcements' highlighted with a red arrow. The main content area shows the following details:

General information			
Programme	Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON) € Budget overview		
Call	Innovation Action in Low Latency and High Bandwidth Interconnects (HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2023-INTER-02)		
Type of action	HORIZON-JU-IA HORIZON JU Innovation Actions	Type of MGA	HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG] Open for submission
Deadline model	single-stage	Opening date	01 August 2023
		Deadline date	31 January 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

You can also search for consortium partners using the [EU partner search tool](#) or the [EURAXESS North America partnering tool](#). The European Commission also hosts regular [info days and “brokerage” events](#) to connect potential partners across all research areas.

TIP: The [Community Research and Development Information Service \(CORDIS\)](#) provides comprehensive information about all previously funded projects and is another helpful tool to find potential consortium partners in your area of interest.

Step 3: Create an account

If you do not already have one, create an EU login account by selecting the REGISTER button.

Step 4: Identify a coordinator

Identify a lead applicant (institution) to coordinate the proposal submission and manage the research project. Make sure to ideally work with a lead applicant who has prior experience with Horizon Europe program requirements.

Step 5: Complete and submit the application

Complete the proposal in collaboration with your partner organizations. Make sure to allow sufficient time to review the grant requirements, build a consortium, conceptualize and prepare the application. A minimum of six months is recommended to prepare a competitive application.

The [Enspire Science Beginner’s Guide to Horizon Europe Collaborative Projects](#) provides a good overview of the application process and suggested timeline.

Horizon Europe proposals include the following two parts:

- **PART A – Application Form:** a standard system-generated form including a proposal summary, description of the partners and participants, the role of each participating organization, a high-level budget, and information on ethics and research security.
- **PART B – Project Proposal:** a narrative attachment including the technical proposal and detailed budget tables. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates provided in the participant portal for a specific call or topic. The page limit for Part B is 45 pages.

[Standard Application Form \(Part A and B\) for Research and Innovation Actions](#)

4. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Budget categories: The Horizon Europe budget categories include A. personnel costs, B. subcontracting, C. purchase costs (travel, equipment, goods and services), D. other direct costs and E. indirect costs.

Indirect costs: Horizon Europe allows for indirect costs at a flat rate of 25% on eligible direct costs, excluding the cost of subcontracting.

[Horizon Europe Detailed Budget Table](#)

IMPORTANT: Make sure to include audit costs in your budget if requesting Euro 430,000 or more! All Horizon Europe projects where a single participant receives Euro 430,000 or more require a Certificate on the Financial Statements prepared by an independent auditor. Audit costs are an eligible expense for Horizon Europe grants and we recommend including a minimum of CAD 20,000 in audit expenses under D. other direct costs.

5. EVALUATION PROCESS AND REVIEW PERIOD

Proposals will typically be evaluated by three or more independent experts against the following award criteria: Excellence; Impact; Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation. The specific weightings, aspects and further details will be included in the individual funding call.

The standard evaluation period is five month for single-stage calls and 8 months for two-stage calls (3 months for the first stage and 5 months for the second stage).

[Horizon Europe Proposal Evaluation](#) (slide presentation)

[Horizon Europe Evaluation Form for Research and Innovation Actions](#)

TIP: [Register as an expert](#) to learn more about the Horizon Europe proposal evaluation process and criteria.

6. RESOURCES

[ISED Canada Horizon Europe website](#)

[Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#)

- A detailed guide on the budget, structure and political priorities of Horizon Europe

[Horizon Europe Online Manual](#)

- A guide on procedures and processes from proposal submission to grant management

[Horizon Europe Reference Documents](#)

- Forms, template, standard grant agreements and other documents

[Horizon Europe Support Videos](#)

[Horizon Europe Events and Webinars](#)

Contacts:

ISED Canada: horizoneurope@ised-isde.gc.ca

UVic: nsegrants@uvic.ca